

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1555

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, MARR, IS, LE
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: SIILASVUO'S JUNE 5 MEETING WITH
HOSS AND BOUTROS

REF: BEIRUT 3067, DAMASCUS 3234

SUMMARY: SIILASVUO SAYS HIS JUNE 5 MEETING WITH HOSS, BOUTROS
AND OTHERS WENT AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED. GOL WILL SEND
INSTRUCTIONS TO HADDAD TO FACILITATE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT. IN THE
MEANTIME, GOL DOES NOT, REPEAT NOT, WANT UNIFIL TO ENGAGE IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH HADDAD. RE "GOOD FENCE," AS LONG AS GOL NOT IN
CONTROL OF AREA, IT HAS NO MEANS OF AFFECTING STATUS QUO.
PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT SHOULD APPLY (WHICH
PROHIBITS CROSSING OF CIVILIANS) BUT MATTER WILL BE STUDIED
FURTHER. HOSS CONFIRMED ASSAD AND SARKIS DISCUSSED
MOVEMENT OF ADF SOUTHWARD BUT COULD GIVE NO DETAILS. GOI HAS
BEEN INFORMED OF FOREGOING.

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1. SIILASVUO BRIEFED ME ON HIS JUNE 5 MEETING IN BEIRUT
WITH PM HOSS, FON AND DEFMIN BOUTROS, INTERIOR MIN
SALMAN, GEN KHOURY, AND CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE. HOSS SAID GOL
WANTS UNIFIL TO DEPLOY THROUGHOUT SOUTH LEBANON ALL THE WAY TO THE
ISRAELI BORDER. AFTER DISCUSSING HADDAD PROBLEM,
HOSS SAID GOL WOULD SEND INSTRUCTION S (A) NOT TO INTERFERE
WITH UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT, BUT TO FACILITATE IT; (B)

HADDAD SHOULD KEEP HIS TROOPS IN CAMP AND BE MILITARILY INACTIVE. IN REPLY TO QUESTION WHEN INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT, LEBANESE SIDE SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER PROBLEM OF TIMING. IT COULD BE AS LATE AS JUNE 13. IN ANY EVENT, UNIFIL WOULD BE INFORMED OF HADDAD'S REACTION. PENDING DEPLOYMENT GOL DID NOT, REPEAT NOT, WANT UN TO ENGAGE IN TALKS WITH HADDAD. HOSS STATED, "THE GOL WANTS NO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE UN AND CHRISTIANS OR ANY OTHER ARMED GROUPS."

2. RE THE "GOOD FENCE," SIILASVUO RELAYED WEIZMAN'S POSITION THAT IT MUST REMAIN OPEN (JERUSALEM 1516). BOUTROS WAS NON-COMMITAL AND SAID PROBLEM WOULD BE STUDIED FURTHER. AS LONG AS GOL WAS NOT IN CONTROL OF THE AREA, IT HAD NO MEANS OF AFFECTING THE STATUS QUO. BOUTROS INDICATED HIS PRELIMINARY THINKING WAS THAT ARMISTIC AGREEMENT SHOULD BE APPLIED (ONE PROVISION PROHIBITS BORDER CROSSING OF CIVILIANS). THE "GOOD FENCE" BOUTROS OBSERVED WAS CAUSED BY THE SITUATION IN THE AREA AND THE GOL WAS NOT INVOLVED IN WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

3. SIILASVUO HAS INFORMED IDF LO COL LEVINSON OF ABOVE. CONCERNING THE "GOOD FENCE" SIILASVUO SAID HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE GOL POSITION WAS THAT IT WOULD REMAIN OPEN FOR THE TIME BEING. LEVINSON ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF GOL WERE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ASK UNIFIL TO CLOSE THE BORDER. SIILASVUO SAID HE THOUGHT THE UN WOULD COMPLY (THIS POSITION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY UNNY).

4. WHEN SIILASVUO INQUIRED ABOUT RESULTS OF ASSAD-SARKIS MEETING, HOSS SAID POSITIONS THAT HAD BEEN CONVEYED WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE VIEWS OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. HOSS CONFIRMED MOVE OF ADF SOUTH TO LITANI HAD BEEN EXAMINED BUT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS.

5. AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING, SIILASVUO HAS SENT WORD TO GOI THAT ON JUNE 13 UNIFIL EXPECTS TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE AREA AND ALL POSITIONS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE IDF IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE HIMSELF DOES NOT PLAN TO MEET WITH WEIZMAN OR EITAN UNLESS THEY REQUEST HIM TO DO SO. ERSKINE WILL MEET WITH O/C NORTHERN COMMAND GENERAL BEN GAL JUNE 6 TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL.

6. IN EXCHANGE I GAVE SIILASVUO GIST OF BEIRUT 3067 OMITTING SOURCE. HE WAS DELIGHTED WITH REPORT ADF WOULD MOVE SOUTH TO LITANI. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED WITH

REPORT THAT GOL INTENDS TO SEND LAF UNITS TO THE SOUTH
BUT WAS SKEPTICAL THAT THEY WOULD, IN FACT, EVER
ARRIVE.

7. RE ERSKINE'S JUNE 2 MEETING WITH ARAFAT, NO BREAK-
THROUGH EVER OCCURRED. ARAFAT REPEATED STANDARD
POSITIONS AND DID NOT PROVIDE LISTS AND LOCATIONS OF
PALESTINIANS IN UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATIONS. ON
LATTER POINT SITUATION REMAINS AS REPORTED IN JERUSALEM 1521.

8. ISRAELIS HAVE NOT REVERTED TO THE QUESTION OF ILMAC MEETING.
PRIETO THINKS THIS MAY, IN PART, BE DUE TO PROVISION IN AA
PROHIBITING CIVILIAN BORDER CROSSING.
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